



## News to Use July 2006

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### Be a reading research pioneer

As KYAE enters its second year of a National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) reading research project, adult educators can be part of an exciting study in helping adults learn to read.

Participants in the research, *Scientifically Based Reading Instruction for Adults: A Kentucky Pilot Project*, must:

- Attend four full-day trainings (September 22, 29 and October 6, 20)
- Implement knowledge and skills learned in training

- Cooperate in collecting, tracking and providing NCFL with data on adult students, the teaching experience and other relevant areas.

Half of participants will receive on-site support from a reading coach. NCFL staff members are not aware of this kind of coaching support and assistance being used in adult education.

Participants will receive a \$300 stipend and 8 PDUs for full participation in the project (September through June). Interested adult educators may contact Susan McShane, reading initiative specialist/project director, at [smcshane@famlit.org](mailto:smcshane@famlit.org) or (502) 584-1133, ext. 175; or Donna Elder, adult education reading coach, at [delder@famlit.org](mailto:delder@famlit.org) or (502) 584-1133, ext. 143.

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### **Broadcast campaign begins this month**

Radio and TV ads promoting GED will air July 24-August 20 on stations across the Commonwealth. The ads will feature KYAE's toll-free number; callers will be transferred to local programs or given local contact information. Adult education programs may want to leverage the campaign with local promotional events and activities.

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### **It's graduation season**

Adult education programs received much positive news coverage surrounding recent GED graduations. Read about student successes from [Madison County](#), [Calloway County](#) and [Boyd County](#).

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### **NRS performance measures final**

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education, has approved KYAE's 2006-07 NRS performance measures, which are available at [performance measures](#).

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## **KYAE wins communication awards**

KYAE's communication and marketing materials recently won awards from the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators. The competition included more than 100 entries from Kentucky state agencies, postsecondary institutions, economic development groups and non-profit organizations. KYAE staff members involved in the research, design, writing, production and dissemination of the materials were Dr. B.J. Helton, Janet Hoover and Melissa Wireman. The design was executed by New West Agency in Louisville.

Receiving recognition were:

- "GED: Prove Yourself" communication campaign, Award of Excellence; campaign included KYAE brochure, posters, flyers and folders, local signage for adult education centers, plus tray liners and bag stuffers used in the McDonald's marketing pilot
- "GED: Prove Yourself" poster series, Award of Excellence
- "Learning for Life Annual Progress Report 2004," Award of Merit
- "Learning for Life" brochure, Award of Merit

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## **Assistance for students with hearing loss**

Adult education students with hearing loss may receive assistance through a KYAE partnership with the Center on Deafness and Hearing Loss at Eastern Kentucky University and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), an Education Cabinet agency.

Cindy Downey, transition specialist at the Center on Deafness and Hearing Loss, will help arrange for sign language interpreters for adult education students. Adult education programs pay for the service and are reimbursed through OVR. Cindy can also provide information and answer questions about services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals and invoicing for interpreters. Upon request, she will visit adult education centers to facilitate services.

Contact Cindy at (859) 248-0569 or [Cindy.Downey@eku.edu](mailto:Cindy.Downey@eku.edu).

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## **BEST assessment changes**

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) has announced the following changes in its Basic English Skills Test (BEST) ESL assessments:

- The BEST oral interview will be retired on September 30, 2006, and has been replaced by BEST Plus. Programs planning to use the oral interview for the 2006-07 year should order enough copies for pre- and post-testing by September 30.
- On October 1, 2006, CAL will launch an upgraded version of the BEST literacy skills section. This revised version, to be called BEST Literacy, will include new photos and graphics that reflect today's styles and current food, clothing and housing prices. The same administration and scoring procedures will be used.

For more information, contact Joyce Bullock at (502) 573-5114, ext. 118, or [Joyce.Bullock@ky.gov](mailto:Joyce.Bullock@ky.gov).

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## **2006-07 PD partners in place**

KYAE contracts with three partners to provide a broad spectrum of professional development opportunities for Kentucky adult educators. The 2006-07 agreements are summarized below.

### **Adult Education Academy for Professional Development**

Through Morehead State University, the Academy will:

- Provide a workshop on using KYAE's program self-review form to develop a program improvement plan for under-performing counties.
- Conduct three workshops for program directors of under-performing counties and new program directors. The workshops will be based on Judy Alamprese's model of analyze, identify, design, document and evaluate.
- Conduct new program directors follow-up workshops based on Alamprese's features of high-performing programs.
- Provide three regional workshops on assessment to instruction.
- Develop and test a workshop focusing on KYAE content standards.
- Provide three regional workshops on GED essay scoring.
- Coordinate and facilitate KYAE assessment workshops.
- Train adult educators on PDtrack and assist with PD Planning workshops.

### **Kentucky Adult Education Literacy Institute (KAELI)**

Through the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development at the University of Kentucky, KAELI will:

- Provide innovative yearlong graduate/undergraduate credit activities for up to 30 participants. Programming will emphasize research-based theory and practice in adult literacy.
- Provide up to four sessions of “Orientation to Reading and Writing” workshops for new adult educators.
- Provide two literacy focus circles on research-based readings with discussions on best practices and classroom strategies.
- Create and facilitate three adult reading workshops for experienced adult educators and KAELI graduates.
- Pilot one writing workshop that reflects the recommendations of a spring 2006 writing focus group.

{Toni-Ann Mills, KAELI director, has resigned her position to take a job in Chicago. She and her family are moving at the end of July.}

### **Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy (KIFL)**

Through the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), KIFL will:

- Provide technical assistance for a maximum of 25 family literacy programs identified by KYAE.
- Provide a one-day workshop, “Instructional Strategies for ESL,” focusing on a toolkit developed by NCFL; KIFL will also provide support on toolkit implementation.
- Provide “Foundations in Family Literacy,” a core requirement for all new KYAE family literacy staff. “Foundations” is an online and face-to-face training with a Kentucky family literacy overview.
- Provide a two-part “Rural Strategies Workshop.” In Part 1, offered in three regions, participants will choose a new strategy to implement. KIFL will support implementation through phone, e-mail or onsite technical assistance. Four months later, Part 2 will bring participants together to share results.
- Provide three regional “Family Literacy Best Practices Workshops” on strategies for building enrollment and increasing retention in family literacy programs.

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### **KYVAE improvements on the way**

Kentucky Adult Education thanks participants who attended several provider focus groups in the spring to discuss KYVAE. KYAE is currently working on the following enhancements to the virtual initiative:

- *Integrating AERIN with the KYVAE environment.* KYAE policy limits KYVAE access to eligible adult education students. KYVAE will be linked to the AERIN database in support of the policy. Before student registrations are processed, KYVAE will verify whether these individuals are in AERIN. Students entered in AERIN will receive immediate access to their courses in PLATO, WIN or LiteracyLink. If AERIN does not recognize a student, that individual will be placed in a pending status until he or she enrolls in an adult education program. The potential student will receive a message with the program's contact information. The selected instructor will also receive notification of the pending enrollment.
- *Redesigning KYVAE to better meet our students' needs.* A number of focus group participants stated that KYVAE needed to be understandable to students with limited reading skills. Many also thought the Educart was confusing and the course descriptions not helpful to potential students.
- *Upgrading KYVAE throughout the year.* Upgrades will include PLATO, WIN and LiteracyLink video clips to motivate potential students to enroll in adult education; selection from a short list of goals such as earn a GED, prepare for college or gain workplace skills to view suggested curriculum for achieving that goal; limited number of courses offered through the Educart to provide a single point of entry to WIN, LiteracyLink, PLATO and the PLATO GED Sim test; shortened and simplified course descriptions.
- *Establishing a technology advisory committee.* In response to provider comments, KYAE is establishing a provider committee to evaluate online curriculum products and provide reviews to KYAE. Recommendations would be used to guide future purchases of KYVAE content. Adult educators interested in serving on the committee may contact Erika Larson at (502) 573-5114 x104 or [Erika.Larson@ky.gov](mailto:Erika.Larson@ky.gov).
- *Making additional educational and marketing resources available.* Some instructors expressed an interest in videotaping their classes for a wider audience. KYAE will partner with KET to videotape a math class and post it in ANGEL for instructor and student use. If you have an interest in being one of the first Kentucky adult educators in cyberspace, contact Erika Larson (see above).
- *Continuing review of KYAE virtual learning policies and guidelines.*

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### **KYVAE resource group**

Adult educators now have a single source for online reference materials to PLATO, WIN, WorkKeys and LiteracyLink. The KYVAE resource group includes

information from the archived PL 200, WIN 200, WK 200 and LINK 200. Content will be updated to document curriculum changes, offer teaching strategies and tips for working with virtual students. Adult educators may enroll through PDtrack for this group, available on an audit basis.

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### **Please allow us to introduce...**

“Please allow us to introduce...” is a new monthly feature spotlighting KYAE staff members to help adult educators become more familiar with Frankfort staff. This issue features B.J. Helton, Sandy Kestner and Ginny Sullivan.

If you need a staff contact for particular subject areas, check the [Staff Listing by Service Topics](#).

#### **B.J. Helton**

As GED administrator and senior associate, Dr. B.J. Helton’s responsibilities include ensuring accessible testing and compliance with national GED Testing Service policies and procedures, supporting and monitoring GED test centers, and overseeing scoring and accommodated testing. A KYAE employee for five years, B.J. also serves on the Leadership Team responsible for policy development.

Motivated by her past experiences, B.J. says, “I want to give back what my teachers gave me – opportunity, encouragement and self-esteem.” In her professional life, she enjoys “helping young people and adults get a second chance, working with dedicated providers and seeing new initiatives grow.” B.J. was surprised at KYAE’s recent GED Conference with an award of appreciation from Kentucky GED examiners.

B.J. earned degrees from Indiana University (bachelor’s), Morehead State University (master’s) and Florida State University (doctorate). She lives in Frankfort with her husband of 29 years; she has three grown children and two grandchildren.

Fun facts: B.J. is an avid basketball fan (UK, U of L and high school), compulsively works the daily crossword puzzle and says George Clooney is the second coming of Clark Gable!

#### **Sandy Kestner**

Dr. Sandra Kestner, a 20-year KYAE veteran, is the instruction and program support senior associate. In that role, she directs all statewide

professional development activities, oversees technical assistance, manages PDtrack and facilitates Orientation to Adult Education and Program Leadership, Part I and II. Sandy also serves on the Leadership Team responsible for policy development.

Sandy has degrees from the University of Kentucky (bachelor's, Rank I and doctorate) and Morehead State University (master's). A career educator (she taught science at middle and high school and nutrition at the community college level), Sandy says her job allows her the pleasure of "seeing how professional development ultimately leads to improving the lives of undereducated adults."

She lives in Lexington and has two grown children. Sandy became a new grandmother on July 10 and expects her second grandchild to arrive at Thanksgiving.

Fun facts: Sandy plays golf in her spare time and is considered the resident Feng Shui expert at KYAE.

### **Ginny Sullivan**

As executive secretary, Ginny Sullivan provides vital support to KYAE Vice President Sarah Hindman Hawker and Associate Vice President Reecie Stagnolia as well as general operational support for the KYAE unit.

A 10-year KYAE employee, Ginny has an associate's degree in office administration from Kentucky State University. Prior to joining KYAE, she worked for the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives.

Ginny says no two workdays are the same – an aspect of the job she enjoys. While not on the front-line of adult education, she says, "I view myself as one stitch in the fabric that makes up Kentucky's adult education system." Ginny transferred to another state agency a few years ago but returned to KYAE within a few months because, she says, "my heart is in adult education."

Fun facts: Ginny is an Oakland Raiders fan, likes country and 80s metal music and recently took up line dancing as a hobby.

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## **Postsecondary support for single parents**

Adult education students interested in attending the University of Kentucky may want to explore Virginia Place, which provides a residence to single parents who are full-time students in an academic or vocational program that lasts at least a year. Applicants must be at least 18, have a high school diploma or GED, have primary custody of a child or children eligible for day care and must qualify for Section 8 supplemental housing.

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## **REGISTER NOW!**

Don't forget to register for KYAE regional technology blitzes coming to your area. In addition to sessions focusing on PDtrack, PLATO, WIN/WorkKeys and LiteracyLink, TABE PC will also be highlighted. KYAE is completing a statewide purchase of licenses for administering the TABE on personal computer, and this will be valuable training for all adult educators who administer TABE.

Questions about TABE PC can be directed to Erika Larson at (502) 573-5114, ext. 104, or [Erika.Larson@ky.gov](mailto:Erika.Larson@ky.gov).

Annual AERIN training for new and current users will also be a part of the blitz. KYAE does not plan to schedule additional AERIN training for this fiscal year.

For information on registration, please visit [www.kyae.ky.gov/blitzreserve](http://www.kyae.ky.gov/blitzreserve).

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## **KYAE staff changes**

Michelle Koziol accepted a position with the Justice Cabinet effective July 1. Until further notice, all invoices should be sent to Faith Cirre at [Faith.Cirre@ky.gov](mailto:Faith.Cirre@ky.gov).

Josh Glover has accepted the administrative support position in GED services. Please welcome and congratulate him, as he is very excited to be a full-time member of KYAE's team. Josh, who spent nearly a year with KYAE working through a temp agency, can be reached at (502) 573-5114, ext. 111, or at [Josh.Glover@ky.gov](mailto:Josh.Glover@ky.gov).

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### **Quarterly mileage rate**

The Kentucky Finance Cabinet announced that the July 1-September 30, 2006, mileage reimbursement rate is 43 cents per mile. Information is available at <http://finance.ky.gov/internal/travel/>.

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### ***News to Use* news**

Is there information you would like to see in *News to Use*? Do you have information to share with other adult educators? Please e-mail your ideas to [Janet.Hoover@ky.gov](mailto:Janet.Hoover@ky.gov) or [Melissa.Wireman@ky.gov](mailto:Melissa.Wireman@ky.gov).

You can add your name or those of co-workers directly to the newsletter e-mail distribution list by e-mailing [Ginny.Sullivan@ky.gov](mailto:Ginny.Sullivan@ky.gov).

Remember seeing something in *News to Use* but can't remember when? Want to read the latest information available on the budget, assessment policy, professional development or many other topics? Check out the *News to Use* [index](#) that provides a cross-referenced topical list of newsletter stories from April 2004-present.

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### **Valuable links**

Check out Web sites that may help your students with [grammar/writing](#) and [math](#).

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